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Viewing cable 08CAIRO2460, ARAB LEAGUE TOYING WITH IDEA OF A JOINT ARAB FORCE

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08CAIRO2460**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08CAIRO2460	2008-12-03 15:14	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Cairo

Appears in these articles:

[not](#)
[yet](#)
[set](#)

VZCZCXRO7561
PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHKUK RUEHROV
DE RUEHEG #2460 3381514
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 031514Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0991
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 002460

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA, AF/E

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [EWT](#) [AL](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE TOYING WITH IDEA OF A JOINT ARAB FORCE

Classified By: Minister Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs
William R. Stewart for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Zeid al-Sabban, Advisor to the Arab League (AL) SYG, told us on December 1 that the AL is thinking about creating a "joint Arab force," which could be deployed in places of conflict similar to United Nations and African Union forces. He said that this idea arose after the December 20 conference on piracy hosted by the Egyptian MFA. Al Sabban said the only concrete idea proposed at the conference was the AL suggestion for an Arab maritime force to counter piracy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. He contended that an Arab force is appropriate because the Arab countries of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen are the most affected by the piracy issue. Al Sabban added that such an AL maritime force would work in cooperation with the NATO, EU, Russian and Indian navies already deployed to the region.

¶2. (C) In an effort to address the historical concerns surrounding a joint Arab force, Al Sabban said that this idea was not a "revision of 1948." He said the force would be set up to cooperate with other multi-lateral forces such as NATO and the EU. Al Sabban added that today there are "many" Arab countries that are "in effect" at peace with Israel, and he dispelled the notion that a joint Arab force would have any role to play in the issue of Palestine.

¶3. (C) Comment: This is the first that we have heard about a joint Arab force. The AL is probably toying with the idea, but our conversations with the Government of Egypt, and the Arab League's lack of experience in this realm, lead us to believe that it would be difficult to garner support for such a pan-Arab force.

SCOBED